GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3767
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
TEA INDUSTRY CRISIS
Badi Shri Rajendra Kumar;Rai Shri Nakul Das;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Industry in Assam is facing acute crisis due to paucity of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and measures taken thereon;

(c) the total amount of taxes levied and actual excise and customs duty earned thereon for last three years; and

(d) the Central assistance given to Tea Industry during these years under the 10% plan- budget for accelerated development of the North-East and otherwise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)&(b): Due to the stoppage of direct selling of coal by the North Eastern Coalfields Limited (NEC) to the tea industry, large number of tea gardens in Assam, which are dependent on coal are facing serious problems. As per the information available, Coal India has decided that the entire NEC coal will be sold through e-auctions. Two e-auctions of NEC coal have already been held and further e-auctions are also planned. The Consultative Committee of Plantation Associations (CCPA) have been requested to advise their member tea gardens to source their requirement of coal by participating in the e-auctions.

(c): There is no customs duty on production of tea. Regarding the other taxes and duties, information is being collected.

(d): A sum of Rs.140 crores has been earmarked for the North Eastern Region during 10th Plan out of the total 10th Plan approved outlay of Rs. 350 crores for the Tea Board for implementing various plan schemes. Details of disbursement of funds in the North Eastern region during the first three years of the 10th Plan are as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Disbursement	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Total	65.06	47.49	86.18#
N.E. Region	31.79	25.01	34.52#
Percentage to the total	49%	53%	40%

#Estimated. Subject to revision.